



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
SHIPS  
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WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20376-2101

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Ser 333G/030

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Mr. C. P. Pate, President  
Pate Museum of Transportation  
1227 W. Magnolia Avenue, Suite 420  
Fort Worth, TX 76104-4400

Dear Mr. Pate:

The primary purpose of this letter is to summarize the results of the Navy's inspection of ex-VOSSELLER (MSB 5) as part of the Ship Donation Inspection Program. Since I took over the Inactive Ships Program Office, I have sought to improve these inspections. As I mentioned at the recent Historic Naval Ships Association Conference, the one area that causes me greatest concern is the area of safety. Whether the safety issue is with the touring spaces or the operation of equipment, it is a serious matter. We recognized that neither of these issues pertains to ex-VOSSELLER, however the safety of our inspector, once aboard the vessel does apply.

The ex-VOSSELLER (MSB 5) was inspected on May 10, 2003, at the Pate Museum of Transportation by the Naval Reserve Naval Sea Systems Command, Detachment 811.

The Navy reviewed the inspection results for completeness, technical and safety concerns, trends in preservation and material condition. Enclosure (1) provides detailed comments in the eight functional areas. Below is a summary of the deficiencies and concerns that need to be addressed.

a. The following material condition deficiencies should be addressed in the maintenance plan:

(1) The main deck is spongy due to wood rot. Enclosure (1), Section 3.5.5 refers.

(2) Wood on the pilothouse is rotting. Enclosure (1), Section 3.5.6 refers.

(3) Based on visual inspection the hull has holes and open seams. This is a repeat observation from last year's inspection. Enclosure (1), Section 3.9 refers.

(4) Deck hatches are not tight due to poor condition. Enclosure (1), Section 3.10 refers.

b. The following safety and health concerns dealing with category A (topside/exterior areas) and category B (interior spaces open to the public) should be corrected: None noted.

c. Other issues in non-tour areas that should be addressed: None noted.

Your hospitality toward the members of the inspecting team and your cooperation with the Navy's Ship Donation Inspection Program is greatly appreciated. Please provide a formal response by letter to me regarding the status of your efforts to address the issues identified above no later than December 1, 2003. Timely submission of your plans to address these items is very important. We look forward to future inspections. If we may be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,



L. M. JONES, JR.  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Program Manager  
Inactive Ships Program Office

Enclosures: 1. Ship Donation Inspection Program Sheet

Copy to: Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 04XA1)  
Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 05BX)  
Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 05DB)  
Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 05N)  
Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 62212)